(c) and (d) Government remains concerned at certain aspects of the China-Pakistan relationship which adversely affects our security. This includes Sino-Pak defence cooperation including in the nuclear weapons and missile development programme. We have made known our concerns to the Chinese side.

India and China are seeking a fair reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations.

American strategy to fight terrorism

839. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the speech made by US President George W. Bush in his "State of Union Address" outlining the American strategy to fight terrorism and the future course to be pursued indicating that DPRK (North Korea), Iran and Iraq would be its next targets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In his "State of the Union Address" to the U.S. Congress on 29.01.2002, the U.S. President outlined a number of domestic and international policies of his Government, including the U.S. Government's commitment to combat international terrorism. In this context, the U.S. President raised concerns about the links between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and reiterated his objective of preventing regimes that sponsor terror for threatening America and its friends and allies from weapons of mass destruction. Government has noted that the U.S. President did not state that the United States intends to militarily target any of the named countries.

U.S. mediation in Indo-Pak relation

840. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Administration has offered to mediate in Indo-Pak relation to resume bilateral talks; and

(b) if so, the details of the U.S. offer and Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indus water treaty

841. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to unilaterally abrogate the Indus Water Treaty to bring pressure to bear on Pakistan to take effective steps to help fight terrorism by banning terrorist activities by militant outfits operating from Pakistan including Pak occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken for abrogation of the Treaty and what are the precise repercussions thereof on Indian and Pakistani interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Following the December 13 attack on the Parliament, Government took several measures considered necessary and effective to highlight the need for Pakistan to end support to cross-border terrorism and infiltration. These included the decisions to recall the Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad; terminate the services of the Samjhauta Express and the Delhi-Lahore bus service with effect from 1st January, 2002; reduce the strength of the respective High Commissions in the two countries by 50%; restrict the movement of those officials and family members who stayed back to the municipal limits of Delhi and suspension of all overflight facilities available to Pakistan or Pakistan Airlines with effect from 1st January, 2002. India has also handed over to Pakistan a list of 20 fugitives from law with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India.

Government remains firmly committed to countering the threat of cross border terrorism and to preserving India's security.